

NEWSLETTER

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TETRAS

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Enhancing transfer of transversal skills for social inclusion



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1. EDITORIAL

by Johan Warnez, Groep Ubuntu, project coordinator

The road towards **successful social inclusion** of people with disabilities is not free of obstacles. Challenges are everywhere and are not few.

A previous Erasmus+ project – **Cognition & Inclusion** being awarded an EPOS quality label – promoted presuming competence beliefs in professionals, besides methodologies to equip people with cognitive challenges with transversal skills, necessary for independent living and adaptation to the continuously changing social environment.

This **TETRA-S-project** may be seen as a **next step** in supporting professionals in their aim to foster social inclusion of their clients. One's they have 'empowered' their clients by equipping them with transversal skills like problem solving or flexibility, the challenge is to support the spontaneous performance of these skills every time this is necessary and relevant. This spontaneous transfer is – due to the cognitive and learning problems of the clients – too often not seen.

TETRA-S aims to provide tools and methodologies to the professionals, focusing on conditions and methodologies to promote this transfer.

In particular, as **digital tools** are often used to train transversal skills, critical reflection on how to use these tools is included in the project. It is found that the outcome of digital training of transversal skills is not long lasting unless it is introduced in a **powerful learning environment** with metacognitive reflections.

I'm happy to have found partners organizations and authorities from six countries: Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Italy, with very competent and enthusiastic professionals, to elaborate innovative tools and concepts, and to work together as a strong team to realize a **Massive Open Online Course** on beliefs and conditions for transfer of skills that are necessary for successful social inclusion.

The **Kick Off meeting** last June in Padova – co-hosted by **ENSA and IRECOOP Veneto** -, was successful, already because the partners were happy to be able to continue the high quality work done during the C&I-project. We all share the idea **'When you believe, you will achieve.'**



2. TETRA-S KICK OFF MEETING 27-28 JUNE 2022

The **kick-off meeting** of the TETRA-S project was hosted by **IRECOOP** Veneto, a training organization promoted by the Confcooperative – Regional Union of cooperatives of Veneto and Federation of Cooperative Credit banks as a support to social development in the Veneto Region. This has been the occasion for the participants' organizations to learn about specific local practices.

The coordination has been done jointly by the project **Groep Ubuntu** project applicant with **ENSA**, European Network of Social Authorities.

All partners contributed enthusiastically, namely: **Groep Ubuntu**, active in the field of disability and social economy; **NARHU**, working with people with disabilities in terms of their education, employment and social inclusion; **IVASS**, Valencian Institute of Social Services; the **University of Evora**; **EUROCY Innovations**, an IT engineering and consulting company, **ENSA**, European Network of Social Authorities.

The event has been divided in two parts: one directly connected to the project's goal **to enable a full participation in society of person with disabilities** that's to say targeting social, emotional and interpersonal skills and the development of cognitive skills. In the project's vision, **the belief in the abilities of each person** is central to the development of their talents.

The other one was dedicated to **study visits** in an approach of mutual learning.

The first visit took place at the **IRPEA** Foundation (www.irpea.it): an entity providing services accredited by the Veneto Region. Focus was made on the experimental activities that IRPEA has been developing such as the creation of a social condominium aimed at supporting cohabitation and independent life paths for young-adults with slight difficulties; and the implementation of a garden project in the city, with the collaboration of Coldiretti trade association.

The second is a **social housing** project, a model for integration and inclusion: for independent living for young people with disabilities in a framework of solidarity in the neighbourhood. It is part of a new welfare system that represents an alternative to the recovery in residential structures.

The third is called **“Stiamo in rete”** (Let's stay connected). The objective is to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities using new technologies to favour social inclusion

The fourth is called **“Mixed ability rugby”**, an education, integration and inclusion model

And last but not least, visit was held at the Cooperative **Vite Vere Down Dadi** (www.downdadi.it)



3. INTERVIEW WITH DANIELA MORO, IRECOOP VENETO, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SOCIAL SECTOR

Could you introduce us to the representative of IRECOOP who welcomed this international meeting?

First of all, we were happy to involve Ugo Campagnaro, Vice President, and Daniela Galante, regional secretary of Confcooperative Veneto and Zita Krastina, Eu policy officer, IRECOOP Veneto.

What is the main objective of IRECOOP?

IRECOOP is as a legally recognized association, a training and consulting organization promoted by the Confcooperative – Regional Union of cooperatives of Veneto and Federation of Cooperative Credit banks as a support to social development in the Veneto Region. IRECOOP Veneto is accredited by the Veneto Region for Life-long learning and Superior Education.

Initially IRECOOP was mainly involved in the agricultural sector. It promotes and manages initiatives of vocational basic and follow-up training, professional qualification and staff re-qualification, as well as trainings for job seekers, employees, disadvantaged people, emerging professional profiles. It collaborates with Employment agencies for the promotion of employability of disadvantaged groups.

IRECOOP carries out ESF projects and works for projects within the Recovery and Resilience Facility. It includes in its target group dependent elderly people.

Exchanges in particular have been made with IVASS which mentioned their work in the Next Generation EU.

We thought the involvement of IRECOOP was particularly relevant in this project because of the previous work you developed as partner in the Cognition and Inclusion project. What link and continuity do you think can be achieved?

In general, for this target group, training is focusing on practical skills and not on problem solving skills. Programs for training transversal skills are not known or not implemented successfully, the latter because trainers or social workers involved often are not really convinced that adults with learning disabilities are able to learn these skills. "Cognition & Inclusion" already reflected on successfully implemented cognitive models. The project objective - at the end - like with TETRAS was to work towards a better quality of life and true inclusion of persons with disabilities, this time the focus will be on tools for assessment and improving beliefs and skills of adult educators with the support of an interactive MOOC (Massive Open Online Course).

Inclusion and job opportunities of the target group is a long path on which to go forward together.



Daniela Moro, IRECOOP Veneto

4. WHO WE ARE

Groep Ubuntu, BELGIUM

groepubuntu.be

LEAD



Group Ubuntu is a Flemish not-for-profit network organisation active in the field of **disability and social economy**. The organisation supports ca.1000 vulnerable adults with a disability (intellectual, cognitive, physical, sensorial), dual diagnosis or ASS. The group, goes just that one step further. It raises the standard for vulnerable people and families. **It goes for nothing less than their own valued place in society**, it does this by empowering them. From listening actively to them and their network, it works together to find unique, creative answers for their needs through a real and individualized support.

Empowering people also makes Ubuntu stronger. The group is generally recognized and valued for its educational knowledge and its extensive expertise in the field of **cognitive training** (meditational interventions, Breinbreker) and its approach to wellbeing (gentle teaching). A firm content and a warm approach for the best quality of life.

Ubuntu organizes activities, services and workplaces for people with a disability as well as for those who do not have access to the mainstream labour market. The group looks for cross-pollination across sectors and in connection with the neighborhood. After all, it is perfectly normal for everyone to have the opportunity to contribute to a warm, supportive living

University of Evora,
PORTUGAL

uevora.pt



The University of Évora was founded by the Jesuits Company and supported by the Portuguese royal family, in 1559. The University of Évora is now organized in 6 organic units: Schools of Arts, Sciences and Technology, School of Health and Human Development, Social Sciences, Nursing and a Doctoral School - the Institute of Advanced Studies and Research (IIFA) and offers 41 undergraduate and 120 postgraduate degrees. Research and Development (R&D) covers several scientific areas through a network of 14 Research Units, all of them submitted to international evaluation, under the coordination of the Institute for Research and Advanced Studies. The 150 running R&D projects are developed through national and international partnerships, funded by the FP7, FCT as well as by private sponsorship. The EU participates in international programmes within Erasmus (mobility of students and teaching staff), European research funding and other international research funding, Life Long Learning projects, Health and Social Affairs.

The School of Health and Human Development (SHHD) and the Comprehensive Health Research Center (CHRC) are Units contributing to TETRA-S. The School trains bachelor & masters & PhD and organizes post-graduate studies in the field of Health, Sports and Rehabilitation.

4. WHO WE ARE

IVASS (Valencian Institute of Social Services), SPAIN

ivass.gva.es



The Valencian Institute of Social Services (IVASS) is a public organization attached to the Vice Presidency and Regional Ministry for Equality and Inclusive Policies (Valencian Regional Government). It provides assistance and executes actions in the field of disability, social services and social action. IVASS's mission is to provide the necessary supports and social attention to people with different needs in order to fulfill their integral development into society. IVASS works to consolidate a Quality Service that, in a participatory way, responds to the needs and demands of people who are part of our organization or request our services. In addition, it protects and guardianship persons with judicially modified capacity.

IVASS comprises 6 daycare centers, 10 occupational centers, 11 day and night residences and 5 sheltered homes where its 820 professionals dedicate their efforts to the attention and care of 1,200 people with social care needs. Finally, it provides them the necessary support for their integral development, in a participatory manner and through a quality service.

NARHU (National Association of Professionals working with people with Disability), BULGARIA

narhu.org



NARHU is a non-profit union in public service comprised of a National representative body of all professionals who are working with people with disabilities in terms of their education, employment and social inclusion. The team of NARHU comprises of well-known experts in the field of inclusive education, educational methodologists, social workers and technicians who are developing specific resources to ensure inclusive education and labour market inclusion of youth and adults with disadvantages. Also experts in economy, law and IT are part of the team.

The main activities are directed towards educators and people with different type and stage of disability, primarily in the spheres of their employment, social inclusion and training. Among them, supporting and inclusive education materials based on the P-level system for youth and adults with disabilities and their teachers/trainers, innovative programmes for vocational education and training, flexible schemes helping the career development of young people and adults from disadvantaged groups, and guidance for teachers and trainers. **The actual activities and national projects of Narhu provide a wealth of experiences that are useful for the TETRA-S project: sharing good practices, tackling educators' challenges whilst training their learners.** Moreover, recommendations are developed based on the good practices and the critical factors of success, as found in Bulgaria.

4. WHO WE ARE

EUROCY, CYPRUS

eurocyinnovations.com



EUROCY is an IT **Engineering** and Consulting company founded in 2008 in Cyprus. The company comprises a team of passionate engineers and other professionals **aiming at contributing to the social e-inclusion and innovation in Europe**, with high quality products and services offered both to private and public sector. Our team has strong and diverse experience and expertise, covering the design and development of state-of-the-art Web-based cyber-physical systems solutions, the study of application fields and the analysis of business requirements, the design of systems and processes for the effective adoption and integration of new technology, the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in improving the interaction of human users with the environment, the design of games for the playful training of professionals in their working environments, etc. Our driving policy is to build a society developed enough to accommodate the needs of all people.

EUROCY team includes members with more than 18 years of experience in managing large-scale projects in ICT, vocational training and consulting services, as well as advisors to young people and adults in relation with training, employment and assistive technologies and practices and accredited trainers. EUROCY collaborates with other EU organisations and creates intellectual property, as well as training packages in innovative areas.

ENSA

ensa-network.eu



ENSA is a **network of cities and European Regions** coming from 13 member countries that has the aim of **promoting international cooperation in the social field**. ENSA was **established by the Veneto Region** in 1999, that is presently in charge of its general coordination. Since then the network has developed and supported solid partnerships between a wide range of European Regions, funded often by European programmes. In addition, it has carried out seminars, conferences, study visit programmes and exchanges of operators.

Its scope of work is to **encourage international co-operation, mutual learning, exchange of know-how, of cultural models and of experience in the social sector**. Moreover, the objective is to deepen the dialogue concerning social policies with the European Institutions and to favour innovative European answers to social needs.

The network organizes its work in **five subject areas of intervention**. Each has its own “thematic network”: **elderly, youth and family, child issues, disability and social inclusion** as transversal topic. This high level platform is **open to interested stakeholders, public and private authorities** and provides good opportunities for active participation in European policies and strategies.

5. EU AND PARTNERS NEWS

Get ready! Second transnational live meeting in Plovdiv (Bulgaria), 11-12 January 2023

After the successful kick-off of the project in Padua at IRECOOP (Veneto), the second transnational meeting will be organized by **NARHU, National Association of Professionals working with people with Disability**.

The objective of this meeting will be to work, co create and develop a framework for the tools for:

- the assessment and improving beliefs of adult educators;
- the improvement of skills for adult educators.

The actual activities and national projects of Narhu provide a wealth of experiences that are useful for the TETRA-S project: sharing good practices and challenges educators find whilst training their learners, development of recommendations based on the good practices and the critical factors of success as found in Bulgaria.

NARHU has significant experience in the implementation of various programmes aiming at social inclusion of people with disabilities, including those with intellectual and cognitive disabilities. Among the most successful ones are: use of artificial intelligence and educational serious games to train people with disabilities on the acquisition of social skills – communication, cooperation with others, self-control. In addition, we are implementing trainings on transversal skills through blended learning approaches. They include problem solving, self-regulation, team work etc. The trainings combine traditional teaching with reasonable adaptation of the teaching strategies supported by online learning through gaming, simulations and educative videos.



INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Visit our website at <https://tetras.ensa-network.eu/>



FROM THE TETRA-S PARTNERSHIP:
GREETINGS, MERRY XMAS AND THE BEST
FOR...



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